law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act. As on 31.3.2005, there are 303 ongoing cases in the Courts/Police for various violations of the law out of which 24 cases have been filed in respect of "Communication of sex foetus". 33 ultrasound machines are also sealed and seized on violation of the law. The violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to Rs. 1.00 lakh apart from cancellation of registration and license.

Medical Grants Commission

4725. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical education has been the same for the last 50 years;

(b) if so, whether Government now propose to go for a complete revamp of medical education owing to rapid progress in the world of medicine;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also proposed to set up a Medical Grants Commission on the lines of University Grants Commission for providing assistance to Medical Education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANBAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Medical Education in India has not remained static for the past 50 years. There have been changes in Medical Education in India commensurate with the developments taking place from time to time. In fact, this is an ongoing process. The syllabus, the examination pattern, the requirements in colleges etc. have been prescribed in various regulations notified under Section 33 of Indian Medical Council Act.

(d) to (e) Medical Grants Commission has been conceived as a funding agency for providing financial assistance for upgrading the facilities in various Government Medical Colleges Hospitals which are otherwise starved for resources.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the role of Government Medical College is envisaged for providing comprehensive tertiary care medical services. Funds under the National Rural Health Mission are proposed to be channelised through the Medical Grants Commission for providing necessary financial assistance for upgrading the facilities in the Government Medical College Hospitals.

Sanjeevani

†4726. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government had taken a decision to establish a mobile hosptial named "Sanjeevani" with most modern equipments; and

(b) if so, the progress made is this regard alongwith full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided to procure a pre-fabricated, self contained, container based mobile hospital in 2001. This project is first of its kind in the country. Major disasters such as the severe earthquake in Gujarat and super cyclone in Orissa as also management of the disasters on a global context has established that container based mobile hospital if moved to the disaster site at short notice would augment the quick response mechanism and save many preventable deaths. The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) approved the project on 10th April, 2003 at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.25 crores. Fresh international competitive bids were invited in November, 2004 and are being evaluated. The Mobile Hospital is likley to be commissioned by the end of 2005.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.